

## INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

CD NO.

25X1A

COUNTRY China

DATE DISTR. 15 Jul 1949

SUBJECT Reaction of Landlords to Agrarian Reform Program in Communist Areas

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PLACE  
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SUPPLEMENT TO  
REPORT NO.

DATE OF INFORMATION [REDACTED]

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1. [REDACTED]

in one area of Fukien where the 19th Route Army revolted and declared for the Communists early this year (1949), public notices were posted forbidding anyone other than the Communist party to undertake rural rehabilitation work.

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2. [REDACTED]

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3. The Communist land program in Shansi follows what is known as the Yen'an pattern. Proprietors are permitted to retain a certain amount of land, but have to surrender any surplus which is then distributed to landless peasants. The area which the proprietor is permitted to retain is set at 3 mou [6 Mou equal 1 acre] per adult in the proprietor's family. The proprietor is not permitted to employ men to work the land; the work must be done by the proprietor himself or the members of his family. These mechanical provisions add up to a completely irrational and to some extent unworkable solution. Thus there may be only two adults in a family when the distribution is made, but within ten years there may be five; or the converse may equally happen. Further, in many cases the landlords are middle aged or elderly people who have never done manual work, but have been civil servants, teachers or merchants, and are incapable of farming. The result during this last winter (1948-1949) was that 20% of the late landlord class died of starvation.

- 25X1X 4. [REDACTED] figure of 20% is probably exaggerated but there is no doubt that much unjustifiable hardship was suffered by the landlord class.

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- 25X1A 5. [ ] same matter discussed in Canton by a number of the faculty  
of [ ] University. [ ] brother,  
aged 55, had been a middle school teacher all his life in a town in  
Hunan. His pay as such was insufficient to support him, and his family  
and he depended on rentals from the family property to make a living.  
25X1X "He will starve", [ ] "if the Communists introduce this regime  
in Hunan."
- 25X1X 6. As an indication of the feeling of the landlord class in Hunan toward  
this Communist program, many of the landlords in the Tungting Lake  
area, [ ] were offer-  
ing to sell their land for the value of one year's crop, in anticipation  
of the Communist occupation of the area.

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